

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE 25X1

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EXCERPT FROM D/FBIS DAILY LOG - 16 June 1981

2. I had a long discussion with Bob German, Director for Soviet Affairs, State, on FBIS coverage of Soviet Central Asia. German's general view is that he is not yet sure that the present administration will place the same priority on that area as the Carter administration, but Soviet Nationalities including Muslims will certainly have a "high priority" for some time. Coincidentally, he read to me a section of a draft paper on U.S.-Soviet relations which emphasized Muslims and other nationalities.

German favors FBIS' continuing coverage of Soviet Central Asia, partly because the U.S. is developing a number of programs directed at that area for which there is little non-FBIS information on which to base decisions. He noted that aside from occasional reports by Embassy officers who visit Tashkent, etc., there is very little official reporting.

Some specific topics that he considered important included:

- Extent to which the Soviets are attempting to exploit their "understanding" of their own Muslim population for foreign policy purposes.

- Extent to which radio and press items seem defensive about the well-being of Muslims and other minorities in the USSR, and reactions to charges of mistreatment of minorities.

- Comparisons of Russian coverage with Uzbek, etc. on same or similar subjects.

(cc: C/Ops, C/AG, C/Prod, C/E&PS, PO/RA) (S-NFD)

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